

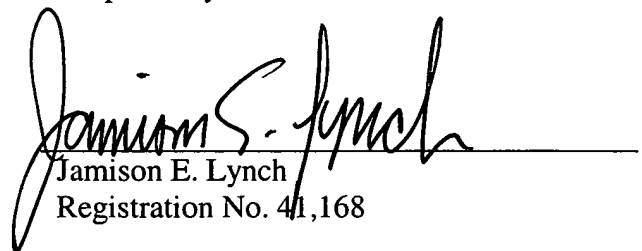
REMARKS

The present application and Preliminary Amendment are submitted under the authority 35 U.S.C. § 371 as national application originally filed as EP PCT/EP2004/006309 and published as WO 2004/110145. By way of the present amendments, claims 1-22 and 24-58 are currently pending in the application. Claim 23 has been cancelled from the present application without prejudice to claim the subject matter in this or any other related application. Claims 55-58 are new.

Applicants respectfully request that the Office enter the claim amendments set forth in this Preliminary Amendment prior to calculating the claim fees which are due in the present application. The claims have been amended for a variety of reasons including to place them in the typical US format, eliminate multiple dependencies and to correct grammatical errors resulting from the translation of the priority application from German to English. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced by way of the amendments to the specification or claims of the present application.

Applicants submit that in light of the amendments presented herein Claims 1-22 and 24-58 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of the proposed amendments and allowance of all pending claims. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would help expedite the prosecution of the present application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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